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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/675,624

09/30/2003

Simon C. Chu

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EXAMINER

STOYNOV, STEFAN

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AUSTIN, TX 78759

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2116

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/675,624	Applicant(s) CHU ET AL.	
	Examiner Stefan Stoyanov	Art Unit 2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 1, under the "Related Applications" section, the numbers of related copending patent applications are missing.

On page 7, paragraph 0021, lines 3, 4, and 7 recite "signal-bearing media" whereas claim 11, line 1, recites "computer program product, residing on a computer usable medium".

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 9, and 17 of copending Application No. 10/674,776. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the limitations in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are disclosed in claims 1, 9, and 17 of copending Application No. 10/674,776.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are nearly identical to claims 1, 9, and 17 of copending Application No. 10/674,776 except that claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 in the current application recite “request for a configuration parameter” and “configuration servers”, whereas claims 1, 9, and 17 of copending Application No. 10/674,776 recite “request for a boot program” and “boot program servers”. A “request for a configuration parameter” is a “request for a boot program” because the boot program provides the configuration parameters.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/698,128. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the limitations in claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are disclosed in claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/698,128.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are nearly identical to claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/698,128 except that claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, and 12 in the current application recite “request for a configuration parameter” and “configuration servers”, whereas claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/698,128 recites “request for a boot program” and “boot program servers”. A “request for a configuration parameter” is a “request for a boot program” because the boot program provides the configuration parameters.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/698,207. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the limitations in claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 14 are disclosed in claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/698,207.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 are nearly identical to claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/698,207 except that claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 14 in the current application recite "a method, a system, and a computer program product for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network", whereas claims 1 and 2 of copending Application No. 10/698,207 recite "a service for providing configuration parameters for connecting to a network". The referred claims encompass any one of "a method, a system, a computer program product for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, and a service for providing configuration parameters for connecting to a network".

These are provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejections because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zimmer et al., US Patent Appl. Pub. Num. 2004/0193867, in view of Schell et al., US Patent Num. 6,314,520.

Re claims 1, 6, and 11, Zimmer discloses a method, a system, and a computer program product for obtaining configuration parameters for connecting to a network, the method, system, and computer program product comprising:

broadcasting a request for a configuration parameter from the computer to a plurality of configuration servers (paragraph 0020, lines 4-13, FIG. 2, 202, paragraph 0021, lines 5-10);

receiving a response to the request for the configuration parameter at the computer, the response being from a responding configuration server from the plurality of configuration servers (paragraph 0025, lines 1-3, FIG. 2, 204);

requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration server (paragraph 0030, line 1, paragraph 0031, lines 1-4, FIG. 2, 208 and 210);

Zimmer fails to disclose storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer, comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of trusted configuration servers, and upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted configuration servers,

requesting configuration parameters from the responding configuration server (this step was addressed by Zimmer as indicated above and was added here for clarity).

Schell teaches a networked client/server computer system configured to establish a trusted workstation (column 1, lines 20-22). Schell further teaches each workstation having a network interface card (NIC), which establishes a trusted connection between the workstation

and the server (column 3, lines 62-65, FIG. 1, 14, 20) through which the workstation communicates with the server over the computer network (column 4, lines 5-7, FIG. 1, 12, 14). In addition, Schell further teaches the NIC card containing a trusted computing base (TCB) extensions that provide for securely booting the workstation, the "TBC extensions" referring to extensions of the server's TCB that operate as part of the workstation's network trusted computing base (column 2, lines 3-11) (i.e. database of trusted servers contained on the NIC). Schell also teaches an address confirmation circuit, wherein upon receipt of a packet, the source address of the received packet is compared for verification that it was sent from an authorized server (i.e. identity verification) (column 2, lines 30-35, column 3, lines 6-11, column 4, line 64- column 5, line 2, column 5, lines 13-22). In Schell, the pre-boot modules are downloaded to the workstation from known trusted servers only (column 2, lines 50-54, column 3, lines 45-49) after meeting the identity verification criteria. Thus, the security of the information stored on a client/server is ensured (column 1, lines 56-59).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use the system and method of storing a trusted computing base (TCB) extension corresponding to trusted boot servers within a NIC used for communication over a network, the process or identity comparison and verification of the received network packets, and based upon that comparison downloading pre-boot modules to the client machine from trusted servers, as suggested by Schell with the method, system, and computer program product disclosed by Zimmer in order to implement storing a list of trusted configuration servers in a computer, comparing an identity of the responding configuration server with the list of trusted configuration servers, and upon verifying that the responding configuration server is on the list of trusted configuration servers, requesting configuration parameters from

the responding configuration server. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do so in order to ensure security of the information being downloaded to the computer.

Re claims 2, 7, and 12, Schell further teaches the method, system, and computer program product, wherein the list of trusted configuration servers is maintained on a secure remote service card interface in the computer (column 2, lines 3-11).

Re claims 3, 8, and 13, Zimmer further discloses the method, system, and computer program product as per claims 2, 7, and 12, further comprising:

upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted configuration servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator of a presence of an unauthorized configuration server in the plurality of configuration servers (paragraph 0044, lines 12-15).

Re claims 4, 9, and 14, Schell further teaches the method, system, and computer program product, further comprising:

upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a server from the list of the trusted configuration servers.

[Schell does not specifically state upon determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted configuration servers, sending the request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a server from the list of the trusted configuration servers. However, Schell teaches discarding the received network packets transmitted by an unauthorized server (column 5, lines 20-22). Thus, it is determined that an untrusted server sent the packets and no download is initiated towards the client computer (i.e. determining that the responding configuration server is not on the list of trusted

Art Unit: 2116

configuration servers). Only when the network packets are verified to be from a trusted server, the download is permitted over the LAN (column 3, lines 53-55, column 5, lines 13-20) (i.e. request for the configuration parameter from the computer to a server from the list of trusted configuration servers followed by downloading a boot program/configuration parameter from a known trusted configuration server over the LAN).]

Re claims 5, 10, and 15, Zimmer further discloses the method, system, and computer program product, wherein the configuration server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server (paragraph 0037, lines 1-10, paragraph 0038, lines 1-6).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefan Stoyanov whose telephone number is (571) 272-4236. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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